Illegal trading in animals

*313. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Free Press Journal of 13th June, 1986 regarding illegal trading in animals, including the protected and endangered species;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make special arrangements to protect musk deer, rhinos, monkeys, snakes and some birds; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Following steps have been taken to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife

(i) Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is being enforced. It has also been suitably amended in the last session of Parliament to ban trade in endangered species of wildlife and products derived therefrom;

(ii) India has ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1976 and is actively implementing the provisions of this convention;

(iii) A new centrally sponsored scheme entitled "Assistance for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife having inter-state and international implication" has been now approved whereby Central Government would provide to the State Government 50 per cent of the cost on non-recurring expenditure;

(iv) The Scheme for strengthening the central Wildlife Division has been now approved, which will help in the control of illegal trade in wildlife and the enforcement of wildlife laws;

(v) For conservation of rhinos in Assam, a new scheme has been formulated;

(vi) Export of endangered animals including musk deer and rhino and all species of monkeys and products derived from all such animals is banned;

(vii) Financial assistance to the national parks, sanctuaries and Tiger Project areas is being enhanced.

Intensification of military activities of Pakistan along Jammu and Kashmir Border

*314. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the 'Patriot' of 23rd July, 1986 to the effect that Pakistan has intensified its military activities along the Jammu and Kashmir border deploying additional troops and bringing in more reinforcements at Poonch, Rajouri, Haji-peer and Uri sectors in Pak-held areas of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the deails in this regard; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government in this regard to face the above threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen the Press report in question. However, there is no evidence to suggest any unusual movement or concentration of Pakis-